



# U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS BALTIMORE DISTRICT

---

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2005

Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 1715  
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715  
Phone: 410-962-2809 Fax: 410-962-3660  
Contact: Mary Beth Thompson  
Release 05-19

## Siren to be tested at Spring Valley Lot 18

**WASHINGTON** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will test an emergency siren and ring-down system at its Lot 18 dig site **May 31 at noon**. The test will begin with a wail sound, which is the emergency notification, followed after a delay with a steady tone, which is the all-clear notification.

In the unlikely event that, during the planned dig at Lot 18, a chemical release occurs and escapes the engineering controls, the siren will sound to let people in the immediate area know they should shelter-in-place. The residents and university staff who are potentially affected have been notified and taught shelter-in-place techniques. Others need take no action unless directed by fire or police officials.

After digging resumes at Lot 18, which is expected to be in mid-June, the siren will be tested on the first Friday of each month at noon. The equipment is routinely tested to ensure that it is working properly.

Spring Valley is the site of chemical weapons research conducted by the government during World War I. As part of its environmental cleanup project there, the Corps is in the process of removing potentially contaminated items from a debris field, designated as Lot 18. Lot 18 is located near the southwestern edge of the university campus and behind several Rockwood Parkway residential properties.

– 30 –

<http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/WashingtonDC/springvalley.htm>